CBI has reported that it has been in-vetigating one case, No. RC3(A)/94 ACU-IV/V, regarding allotment of MUL dealership to M/s. Rohan Motors, Ghaziabad, pertaining to the same period.

Approval to increase foreign equity

1317. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government while granting approval to an investment proposal also approve the activity in which the foreign equity is to be invested;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons why Government require the foreign investor to seek fresh approval for subsequent increase in the amount of foreign equity for investment in the activity already approved; and

(c) whether doing away with this re-quirement of reapproaching Government for increase in foreign equity for investment in the approved activity will go a long way in achieving the Government objective of attracting US $ 10 billion in foreign direct investment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Approvals for Foreign Direct Investments are given for specific activities applied for. In case the foreign investors intend to change the activity or to. increase the foreign equity already approved, they will have to seek fresh approval.

However no Government approval is required for subsequent increase in foreign equity percentage upto 50%, 51% and 74% for the activities (whether existing or fresh)-covered under the high priority sectors listed in Annexure III, Part 'A', 'B' and 'C respectively of Press Note No. 2 (1997 Series) issued on 17th January, 1997. Such proposals are cleared by the RBI under the automatic approval route subject to specified parameters.

(c) Proposals received for foreign direct investment/increase in foreign equity are disposed of in a compressed time schedule which helps in accelerating the FDI approval process and in achieving the desired level of FDI.

Proposal to Relax Mine Leasing Norms

1318. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to relax rules governing mining lease to empower State Governments to provide mining lease;

(b) whether it is a fact that several private sector companies have been permitted by Central Government for mining in the country during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the norms adopted for assigning mine leasing to those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) The Central Government have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) with Secretaries, Mines & Geology of State Governments etc. as members. The terms of reference of the Committee inter-alia include review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/ renewal of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease. The Committee is also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers, to the State Governments regarding grant/renewal of prospecting Licence/ Mining Leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining.

(c) to (e) Mineral Concessions are granted by the concerned State